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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/772,172	01/29/2001	John L. Cartier	29026-P01	9721

987 7590 08/01/2005

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EXAMINER

CHANG, VICTOR S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1771

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
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072605

DATE MAILED:

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Commissioner for Patents

See attached NOTE.

NOTE

1. The reply filed on 6/29/2005 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s):

I. The Examiner notes that all the limitations must be commensurate with the original drawings or specification. As such, in claim 12, the terms “snug”, “dark” (not commensurate with “black”), “entire”, “reversible”, and newly introduced “rounded folded edge”, “substantially similar size”, “abut each other”, and “means sealing said peripheral edges”; and in claim 16, the phrase “with rounded edge of the mat located adjacent the front edge of the step” must be cancelled, as they all appear to be new matter, or express or inherent support must be clearly provided in the next communication. In particular, the Examiner notes Applicant’s argument filed 6/29/2005 arguing that the term “snug” is supported by replacement drawings is improper and erroneous, because replacement drawings are not original disclosure. It should be noted that, in the absence of a clear support in the next reply, the Examiner shall consider Applicant’s amendment as being deliberately non-responsive.

II. While the corrected replacement drawings filed 6/29/2005 correct missing numerals, it is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added materials which are not supported by the original disclosure are as follows: Newly corrected replacement drawings contain elements which are not disclosed in the original drawings and specification. In

Art Unit: 1771

particular, it is noted that Applicants now argue limitations such as "snug" (Remarks, page 3, second paragraph) and "rounded folded edge" (remarks, page 4, top paragraph) as being supported by the corrected replacement drawings, while fail to provide any express or inherent support from the original drawings and specification. Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the drawings in the reply to this Office Action. In order to alleviate possible continual new matter issues, the Examiner suggests cancellation of the replacement drawings.

See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

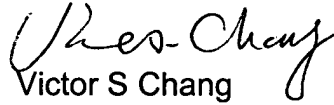
2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor S. Chang whose telephone number is 571-272-1474. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel H. Morris can be reached on 571-272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

Art Unit: 1771

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Victor S Chang
Examiner
Art Unit 1771

7/26/2005